

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR/ Latin America

DATE DISTR. 15 NOV 50

SUBJECT Change of Soviet Policy Toward Latin America

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A

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1. Recently in Moscow a decision was made which involves a fundamental change in Soviet policy toward Latin America. Notification of the change was brought to Cuba by two special couriers. From fragmentary information obtained in Habana, the basic plan seems to call for a general shift from the political and revolutionary fields to the commercial and economic fields. The departure of Vladimir I. Sidorenko, the Commercial Attache of the Soviet Legation in Habana, Cuba, for Moscow on September 13, 1950, has some connection with this change of policy.
2. In an effort to build up confidence in Russia among the Latin Americans, in the future Russia will be presented as a rich potential buyer of commodities in Latin America. To carry out this new policy, Russia is now placing priority on economic activities. Considerable purchases will be made from Latin America, and, in general, economic ties between the two areas will be strengthened. The commodities for which the Soviets will bid in Latin America are: salted raw leather; cordage fibers such as henequen and hemp; oil; rubber; fruits; sugar; coffee; cocoa; mate and certain industrial products.
3. Latin American Communist leaders have been told by the U.S.S.R. that this new policy does not mean that revolutionary action in South America has been abandoned, but that it is merely postponed. In order to conform with this new policy, Latin American Communist leaders have been instructed as follows:
 - a. In those countries where the Communist parties have been declared illegal or are presently being persecuted by the government, the Party is to become absorbed by other political parties. The Communists will then work within those parties to create pressure groups united with other dissatisfied but non-Communist national elements.
 - b. In the remaining countries the Communist parties will be purged of all save the most reliable elements. Thus, there will remain a small but strong party with reliable members as the framework for future action.

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